Condition of Zoos

2200. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of zoos in India is in a shocking state and birds and animals are not adequately protected from diseases;

(b) which zoo staff are neither trained, qualified nor experienced to analyse the illness of animals and administer treatment; and

(c) if so, what is the actual position of zoos in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The level of housing and upkeep of animals particularly the aspects of restraining facilities enclosures appropriate disposal of waste material, supply of potable drinking water, hygiene and sanitation etc. are not upto mark in majority of Indian Zoos. Main bottleneck in improvement of the zoos in the country is lack of staff with the required qualifications and expertise. The resource crunch in various States has hampered the process of the recognition of zoos as scientific institution. By and large the responsibility for health care and upkeep of animals is left to the keepers and assistant keepers who are by and large illiterate. Although Central Zoo Authority is carrying out regular programme for the training of keepers, but the scope of improvement is quite limited due to their poor education and qualification.

Building ECO Cities

2201. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up an ambitious plan to convert some major cities in the country into ECO cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such ECO cities would be developed with some foreign collaboration or any stringent steps would be taken to check generation of pollution in such cities; and